



*Sheep Shearing and Shaving.*  
To the Editor of the American Agriculturist.

Ever since I worked out by the moon, I have had a dread of sheep washing, as it is a costly task. A dam was thrown across a small stream, making a pond, and a pool of the sheep built by the side of it. We stood in the water waist deep, and took a bath for two or three hours at a time; the sheep were thrown in heels over heads, and shaved, and shaved until they were pretty well washed out. The water was not always comfortable warm, and we often had a blue and shivering time, notwithstanding the whisky and tobacco which were poured down to keep the men out, but which sometimes only drove the men out. I have now much more comfortable plan. A large vat made of about ten feet long, four feet wide, and three and a half feet deep, is placed near a trough where there is sufficient fall. Troughs are laid to conduct the water, with their ends rising about two feet above the vat. Two boys each have a sheep sealing at one end of the vat, while you men stand on the ground outside the vat, each hold a sheep under the stream running from the trough. It requires but little squeezing of the wool and much less time to wash them well, than by the old method. It dispenses with all risk, and consequently we have no rumps.

After the sheep are washed, they are turned into a clear pasture, and not sheared until the weather is too warm for flannel jackets. The men that will send a poor sheep out into the chilling winds that often make fire necessary in May, ought to be put to sleep on frozen ground next winter, with only a snow drift for bed clothes.

To shear a sheep well, requires practice and patience. A man in a hurry, ought to leave the shearing floor until his hurry is over, for he will be likely to butcher as well as shear the sheep, and leave the wool in ridges like a new plowed field. To have the sheep quiet, lies him in an easy position; to cut the wool easily and evenly, let the surface over which the shears are passing lie kept rounded out, and the skin drawn smooth.

My way is, to set the sheep on his hind quarters upon the floor, with his back towards the shearer. While in this position, the brisket, belly, and edges of the flank and thighs are sheared. Then the operator kneels on one knee, lays the sheep's neck over the other knee, and shears it carefully on the left side, up to the head. He then stands upon his feet, bends the sheep's head to the right side, and shears the fore leg and left side around to within one or two clips of the back bone, and end on to the thigh. The sheep is then laid on the broad side, the hind leg extended with the shearer's left hand, and the wool clipped from that and the buttock. The knee of the shearer laid over the sheep's neck keeps him quiet. The wool left while going down the back, is cut with clippers lengthwise along the spine. The sheep is then set up again and the other side, finished in like manner. All ing licks, burs, etc., should be removed before shearing, and the floor be swept frequently to keep straw or dirt from the wool. A very little carelessness will make a very great difference in the aggregate price obtained for the clip.

*Deo & Shar'le' Vervels for miles.*  
To the Editor of the American Agriculturist.

Many suppose that the quantity of butter obtained from milk depends greatly upon the treatment before churning, particularly upon the kind of vessel it is kept in. Thus some prefer deep pans, and some will use none, but shallow; some add saleratus to the milk to keep it sweet longer to give the cream more time to rise. Experience has convinced me that the amount of butter depends on the quality of the milk, rather than on its management.

All the butter contained in the milk can be obtained, and no more. I remember fifty years ago that my father, who had thirty or more cows, tried several experiments to ascertain this point. He first procured large flat "shells," wooden tubs about four inches deep, but the labor required to keep them sweet was so great that a number of twelve-inch pans were also used. There was no difference in the amount of butter obtained from each. After this he was persuaded to have smooth oak tubs made each holding about four gallons, having been told that this would remain sweet much longer in them and the cream would be increased, but there was no improvement in the quantity. I have for years used twelve-quarts tin-pans for convenience in handing, and find by keeping the temperature right to allow a moderate cooling and a gradual rising of the cream, I get all the butter there is in the milk, which is the best any plan can do.—*Southern Cultivator.*

*For the American Agriculturist.*

Cure for Gapes in Chickens.  
A have tried the following plan, and found it a certain cure for gapes in chickens. Take a medium sized broom split, with a sharp knife make two or three bars near the large end. Open the neck of the chicken, having its neck drawn straight, and as the wind-pipe is opened for breath, put in the instrument and, raising it carefully down the full length of the wind-pipe, turn it around and down it up when one or more small red worms an inch in length, will be found caught in the bars, a strong English education, including Latin, will be taught.

**TERMS-Per Month.**



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It would be vain boasting to say that these Reapers were manufactured especially for Texas, as some manufacturers endeavor to make the public believe; because they were not, nor any other Reapers, unless perhaps those which are of difficult sale near home, where they are known, and must therefore be sent abroad; but

**The McCormick Reaper and Mower** is manufactured for TEXAS as well as any other State or country where Reapers can, or are required to be used, and are adapted, from their simplicity, to pass into the hands of the farmer who is unskilled in mechanics.

They are not built by the hundred merely, but by THOUSANDS, and of the very best material which ample means, care and experienced skill can possibly secure. The position of the

**Raker in the McCormick Machine,**

has long been a cause of envy to many manufacturers. It is the only really effective position that can be obtained. He is not jolted to pieces on the platform, having the dust and debris of the grain continually cast in his face, while endeavoring to crowd his fork full of grain in a loop-hole between the platform and main wheel frame, and leaving his bundles unevenly scattered on the field, but standing up in an easy position, and with all ease raking his sheaves of as even as they possibly could be done by any other means.

**THE BRACES,**

So highly extolled in other machines, are not necessary, because there is no weight to be hauled on the platform.

The machine is nearly balanced on the main wheel, and little or no weight is on the horses' necks.

It has been before the world for upwards of

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**BEST MACHINE EVER MANUFACTURED.**

Any farmer is at liberty to take the McCormick Reaper and Mower, work it carefully through the whole harvest with any other Reaper, and keep the one which gives the best satisfaction.

Agents are supplied with repairs, so that if anything goes wrong, through accident or mismanagement, it can be replaced without sending to Ohio or Kentucky.

Call on the Agent in your county, who will accomodate you in every reasonable respect as to terms, &c., and furnish you with circulars giving a great deal of information.

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**Frank Fabj & Co.**

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**Cotton Factors and Wholesale Grocers,**

**CORNER MAIN AND COMMERCE STS.,**

**HOUSTON, TEXAS.**

**KEP** constantly on hand a large supply of Western Produce, Fancy Groceries, Choice Liquors, Chewing and Smoking Tobacco, also American, German, and Havana Cigars.

Increased facilities, and arrangements with the manufacturing and commission houses, take in connection with our large stock of cotton, and general supplies to sell goods of any kind and description, duly for, and on a general term as any New York Jobbing House.

Our stock will consist of every article appropriate to a general mercantile business.

Particular attention given to the sale and storage of Cotton, Wheat, Hides, Wool, and all other kinds of Country produce, and to the execution of all orders entrusted to us.

Nov. 16, 1859—[343m]

**UNION PRESS AND WAREHOUSE**

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**GENERAL COMMISSION AND FORWARDING MERCHANT,**

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Particular attention given to the Sale and Storage of Cotton, Wheat, Hides, Wool, and all other kinds of Country produce, and to the execution of all orders entrusted to us.

Nov. 16, 1859—[343m]

**EAGLE HOTEL,**

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This undersigned having become Proprietor of the above well known House, assures the public that no pains will be spared to make it wholly comfortable and convenient for the reception of visitors.

He will also give the same attention to the comfort of the traveling public.

The proprietress is determined to spare no pains to secure the comfort of her guests; and the table will be furnished with the very best the market affords.

Attention servants shall be at hand, at all times, to attend to the wants of the guests. Miss Cockrell solicits a share of the public patronage, especially from the traveling public. Charges moderate.

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**COTTON FACTORS AND WHOLESALE DEALERS IN**

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45-46m.

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**generally.**

Will give prompt and attentive attention to all who

**desire to do business with us.**

Will also receive on consignment after sale of

**all kinds of merchandise.**

Will also receive on credit, or sell Cotton, Wool,

**Birds, Flours, Grains, and Country Produce**

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